

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus comprising:

request means for requesting, from a device to be controlled, a control program for that device;

reception means for receiving the control program from the device to be controlled;

execution means for executing the received control program; and

transmission means for transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program by said execution means,

wherein said reception means and transmission means are capable of using a plurality of communication routes and are employed to perform bidirectional communication with the device that is to be controlled.

2. - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus according to claim [[12]] 1, further comprising selection means for selecting a specific communication route from among the plurality of communication routes.

14. (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus according to claim [[12]] 1, further comprising selection means for selecting a second communication route while a first communication route is currently selected from among the plurality of communication routes.

15. (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus according to claim [[12]] 1, wherein the plurality of communication routes are all to be employed at the same time.

16. (Previously Presented) A remote control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising storage means for storing a history of operations performed according to the control program.

17. (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus [according to claim 1] comprising:

request means for requesting, from a device to be controlled, a control program for that device;

reception means for receiving the control program from the device to be controlled;

execution means for executing the received control program; and

transmission means for transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program by said execution means,

wherein the control program is transmitted to a device other than the device that is to be controlled, and is transmitted through the other device to the device to be controlled.

18. (Currently Presented) A remote control apparatus [according to claim 1] comprising:

request means for requesting, from a device to be controlled, a control program for that device;

reception means for receiving the control program from the device to be controlled;

execution means for executing the received control program; and

transmission means for transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program by said execution means,

wherein the control program is transmitted to a first device that is to be controlled, and is transmitted to a second device that is to be controlled through the first device that is to be controlled.

19. (Previously Presented) A remote control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the status of the device that is to be controlled is received by said reception means and the control program is changed according to the status.

20. (Currently Amended) A remote control system comprising:

identification means for identifying a device to be controlled by a remote control apparatus; and

transmission control means for transmitting to the remote control apparatus from a device that is identified, a control program for the device,

wherein the remote control apparatus executes the control program that is received and transmits a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program, and

wherein each individual device that is to be controlled by the remote control apparatus includes storage means for storing a history of operations performed by that device.

21. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A remote control system according to claim 20, wherein said identification means detects a position of ~~said~~ the remote control apparatus, and employs ~~said~~ that position and positions of a plurality of devices that are to be controlled by ~~said~~ the remote control apparatus to identify a device that is to be controlled.

25. (Currently Amended) A remote control system according to claim 20, wherein said identification means is provided for each of the devices that are to be controlled by ~~said~~ the remote control apparatus.

26. (Currently Amended) A remote control system according to claim 20, wherein said identification means identifies an operator of ~~said~~ the remote control apparatus, and designates operating procedures in consonance with the identity of the operator.

27. (Currently Amended) A remote control system comprising:
identification means for identifying a device to be controlled by a remote control apparatus; and
transmission control means for transmitting to the remote control apparatus an operation procedure for a device that is identified,
wherein the remote control apparatus transmits an operating command to the device based on the operation procedure that is received,
wherein said identification means identifies a skill level of an operator of the remote control apparatus, and, in consonance with the skill level of the operator, designates functions that are to be included in operating procedures, and
wherein each individual device that is to be controlled by the remote control apparatus includes storage means for storing a history of operations performed by that device.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A remote control system according to claim [28] 20, wherein the device that is to be controlled is operated by referring to said history of said operations performed by the device that is stored in said storage means.

30. (Previously Presented) A remote control system according to claim 20, further comprising storage means for storing a history of operations performed by each individual device that is to be controlled by the remote control apparatus.

31. (Previously Presented) A remote control system according to claim 30, wherein the devices that are to be controlled are operated by referring to said histories of said operations performed by those devices stored in said storage means.

32. - 174. (Cancelled)

175. (Currently Amended) A remote control system according to claim 20, wherein said identification means identifies a skill level of an operator of ~~said~~ the remote control apparatus, and, in consonance with the skill level of the operator, designates functions that are to be included in operating procedures.

176. (New) A remote control method performed by a remote control apparatus, said method comprising:

a request step of requesting, from a device to be controlled, a control program for that device;

a reception step of receiving the control program from the device to be controlled;

an execution step of executing the received control program; and

a transmission step of transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program in said execution step,

wherein, in said reception step and transmission step, a plurality of communication routes can be used and the remote control apparatus performs bidirectional communication with the device that is to be controlled.

177. (New) A remote control method performed by a remote control apparatus, said method comprising:

a request step of requesting, from a device to be controlled, a control program for that device;

a reception step of receiving the control program from the device to be controlled;

an execution step of executing the received control program; and

a transmission step of transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program in said execution step,

wherein the control program is transmitted to a device other than the device that is to be controlled, and is transmitted through the other device to the device to be controlled.

178. (New) A remote control method performed by a remote control apparatus, said method comprising:

a request step of requesting, from a device to be controlled, a controlled program for that device;

a reception step of receiving the control program from the device to be controlled;

an execution step of executing the received control program; and

a transmission step of transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program in said execution step,

wherein the control program is transmitted to a first device that is to be controlled, and is transmitted to a second device that is to be controlled through the first device that is to be controlled.

179. (New) A remote control method comprising:

an identification step of identifying a device to be controlled by a remote control apparatus;

a transmission step of transmitting to the remote control apparatus from a device that is identified, a control program for the device;

an execution step of the remote control apparatus executing the control program that is received and transmitting a control command to the device so as to control the device during an execution of the received control program; and

a storing step of each individual device that is to be controlled by the remote control apparatus storing a history of operations performed by that device in a storage unit provided for that device.

180. (New) A remote control method comprising:

an identification step of identifying a device to be controlled by a remote control apparatus;

a first transmission step of transmitting to the remote control apparatus an operation procedure for a device that is identified;

a second transmission step of transmitting an operating command from the remote control apparatus to the device based on the operation procedure that is received; and

a storing step of each individual device that is to be controlled by the remote control apparatus storing a history of operations performed by that device in a storage unit provided for that device,

wherein, in said identification step, a skill level of an operator of the remote control apparatus is identified and functions that are to be included in operating procedures are designated in consonance with the skill level of the operator.